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South African citrus producers struggled to meet demand in Europe this season

11TH SEPTEMBER 2023 BY: MARLENY ARNOLDI - DEPUTY EDITOR ONLINE

The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) has confirmed the conclusion of the 2023 orange export season to Europe.

The final day of inspection for oranges exported to Europe from South Africa, not including exports from the Western and Northern Cape provinces, will be on September 15.

As the South African citrus season in Europe comes to its natural end around October 15, this gives the floating consignments of approved oranges time to reach destinations in Europe.

The South African citrus industry now “hands over” the handling of citrus demand to the northern hemisphere, particularly citrus producers in Spain, as the domestic season ends.

The Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF) comments that consumers worldwide have shown an exceptional appetite for South African citrus.

The local industry was not able to fill the European orange demand this year, however, owing to challenges growers faced during the 2023 season, including loadshedding, unusual weather and logistical constraints.

The citrus industry generates about R30-billion in export revenue every year.

The FPEF and the CGA say they remain committed to working with government and other value chain partners to ensure local growers can withstand the current economic headwinds. 

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